

South Dakota Department of Education

Guidance language for students to meet the requirements under SDCL 13-3-12.1

March 2005

Background

HB 1001, passed by the legislature in 2004, established a new way of looking at high school programs. Currently students entering high school register for courses that at a minimum satisfy the state and local requirements to achieve a high school diploma. Under SDCL 13-3-12.1, students entering high school will register by default for a course of study (Advanced high school program) that is designed to prepare all students for education beyond the high school experience. The idea is to raise expectations for all students to take a rigorous course of study. This is intended to better prepare students for the world of work, higher learning, or other postsecondary options.

However, the law does provide for an option whereby the student may be excused “from taking courses of instruction necessary to complete the recommended high school program (Advanced) if the student’s parents or guardian and a school counselor or school administrator agree that the student should instead take courses of instruction necessary to complete the basic (Standard) high school program...”

This option allows a student to take the STANDARD high school program of study which will achieve a high school diploma, but with lesser requirements. It also implies a conscientious decision on the part of the school and parents to allow for such a plan of study.

This guidance is provided by the Department of Education to assist schools in operationalizing the decisions made to take the STANDARD high school program.

School requirements in meeting state statute

- 1) School counselors will need to explain to parents the options regarding the recommended (Advanced) high school program and the basic (Standard) high school program.
- 2) Parents will need to consult with a counselor or administrator if they decide the student should take the STANDARD high school program.
- 3) Parents will need to “sign off” with the school that they understand the implications of the STANDARD program and agree to allow the student to take this path.
- 4) A signed STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM AGREEMENT, must be kept in the student’s permanent record if the parent(s) so choose this course of study.

Standard High School Program Agreement

File with Student's Permanent Record

Parent(s) Name _____

Student's Name _____ Year of student _____

I have met with _____ to discuss the option of the
(School counselor or administrator)

above listed student taking the Standard High School Program, and agree to allow this
course of study.

Parent Signature _____

School Official Signature _____

Date _____

Note: Should parents decide at a future date that the student's program of study should be directed toward the Advanced or Distinguished programs, please arrange a meeting with the school counselor or administrator.

Graduation Requirements Adopted by State Board of Education January 2005.